

1. Global Innovation Index

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: India has climbed to the 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index of the World Intellectual Property Organization

More on the Topic:

- India has become one of the topmost innovative lower middle-income economy in the world.
- For the twelfth consecutive year, Switzerland ranks first in GII followed by the US.

About 5G Technology:

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is **an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation.**
- It is **published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization**, in partnership with other organisations and institutions.
- It is based on both subjective and objective data derived from several sources, including the International Telecommunication Union, the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.

Ranking is based on two sub-indices:

- Innovation Input Sub-Index
- Innovation Output Sub-Index
- **Innovation inputs:** Institutions; Human capital and research; Infrastructure; Market sophistication; Business sophistication.
- **Innovation outputs:** Knowledge and technology outputs; Creative outputs
- Each of these pillars describe an attribute of innovation, and comprise up to five indicators, and their score is calculated by the weighted average method.

Source: Indian Express

2.UNESCO - 50 iconic Indian heritage textiles

Topic: Culture



In News: The UNESCO has released a list of 50 exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts of the country.

More on the Topic:

- According to UNESCO, one of the major challenges to the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the South Asia is lack of proper inventory and documentation.
- Handmade for the 21st Century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textile lists the histories and legends behind the textiles, describes the complicated and secret processes behind their making, mentions the causes for their dwindling popularity, and provides strategies for their preservation.

Some of the textiles from the list:

Textile	State
Toda embroidery and Sungadi	Tamil Nadu
Himroo weaves	Hyderabad
Bandha tie and dye weaving	Sambalpur in Odisha
Khes	Panipat
Chamba Rumal	Himachal Pradesh
Thigma or wool tie and dye	Ladakh
Awadh Jamdani	Varanasi
Ilkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery	Karnataka
Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari	Thanjavur
Himroo	Maharashtra
Kunbi weaves	Goa

Mashru weaves and Patola

Gujarat

Source: Indian Express

3. Equality in right to have Safe Abortion

Topic: Social Justice



In News: Supreme Court has ruled that Even single, unmarried women have the right to safe and legal abortion.

More on the Topic:

- In a significant ruling on reproductive rights, the Supreme Court extended the right to safe and legal abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy to unmarried and single women, saying it is the **“right of every woman to make reproductive choices without undue interference from the State”**.
- Now, all women in the country, regardless of marital status, can undergo an abortion up to 24 weeks into pregnancy.

Associated Articles of the Constitution:

- Prohibiting unmarried or single women with pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks from accessing safe and legal abortion care is violative of her:
- Rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity and privacy (**Article 21**), and Right to equality before law and equal protection (**Article 14**).

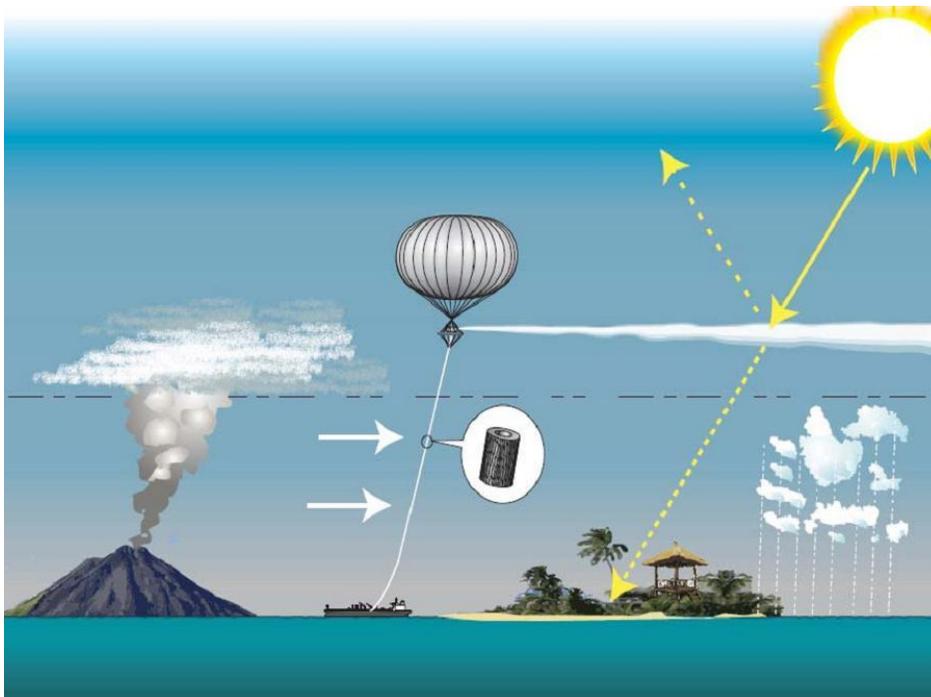
Article 21 and Right to safe Abortion:

- Article 21 of the Constitution recognises and protects the right of a woman to undergo termination of pregnancy if her mental or physical health is at stake.
- Importantly, it is the woman alone who has the right over her body and is the ultimate decision-maker on the question of whether she wants to undergo an abortion.
- Depriving women of autonomy not only over their bodies but also over their lives would be an affront to their dignity.
- The bench also said that the meaning of rape must include marital rape for the purpose of the MTP Act.

Source: Hindu

4.Solar Geoengineering

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Even the Solar geoengineering work, the local temperatures could keep rising for years.

More on the Topic:

- Although Solar engineering technologies could **theoretically lower global warming, they do not aim to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.**
- Without addressing the root cause the beneficial effects will be minimum.
- Climate engineering, or commonly geoengineering, is deliberate and large-scale intervention in the Earth's climate system.

- The main category of climate engineering is solar geoengineering or solar radiation management.
- Solar geoengineering, or solar radiation modification, would reflect some sunlight (solar radiation) back to space to limit or reverse human-caused climate change.

Solar geoengineering methods may include:

- **Stratospheric aerosol injection**, in which small particles would be injected into the upper atmosphere.
- **Marine cloud brightening**, which would spray fine sea water to whiten clouds and thus increase cloud reflectivity.
- **Cirrus cloud thinning**, which is strictly not solar geoengineering but shares many of the physical and especially governance characteristics as the other methods.[16]
- **Passive daytime radiative cooling**, in which sky-facing thermally-emissive surfaces would be extensively installed on the Earth to radiate enough heat back into outer space to reduce the Earth's rising temperature.

Source: PIB

5. The Exchange-Traded Commodity Derivatives

Topic: Economy



In News: Capital markets regulator SEBI has allowed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to participate in the exchange-traded commodity derivatives segment, a move that will further increase depth and liquidity in the market.

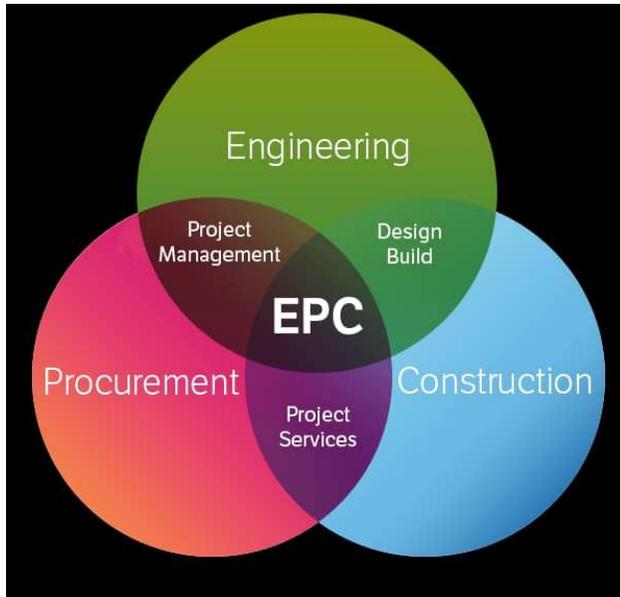
More on the Topic:

- An Exchange Traded Derivative is a standardised financial contract that is traded on stock exchanges in a regulated manner.
- They are subject to the rules drafted by market regulators such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- E.g. gold, crude oil, silver etc.
- **Advantages of ETCDs:** Standardization, Presence of an Intermediary, Market Depth due to Liquidity, and Elimination of default risk.

Source: Moneycontrol

6. Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Model

Topic: Economy



In News: Cabinet cleared Rs 10,000 crore for redevelopment of 3 railway stations (New Delhi, Mumbai (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus), Ahmedabad) under EPC model.

More on the Topic:

- Engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracts (a type of turnkey contract) are a form of contract used to undertake construction works by the private sector on large-scale and complex infrastructure projects.
- Under an EPC contract, a contractor is obliged to deliver a complete facility to a developer who needs only "turn a key" to start operating the facility; hence EPC contracts are sometimes called turnkey construction contracts.
- In addition to delivering a complete facility, the contractor must deliver that facility for a guaranteed price by a fixed date and it must perform to the specified level.
- Failure to comply with any requirement will usually result in the contractor incurring monetary liabilities.
- The EPC contractor coordinates all design, procurement and construction work and ensures that the whole project is completed as required and in time.

Source: PIB

7. Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested the Very Short-Range Air Defense System (VSHORADS) missile.

More on the Topic:

- A group of MANPAD & anti-aircraft weapons and techniques called Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles are used to defend against low-altitude air threats, notably helicopters and low-flying aircraft.
- It is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) designed and developed indigenously by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
- The last line of defence for soldiers against hostile combat helicopters and aircraft is VSHORADS.
- Medium to Low Air Defense divides the battlespace into domes of responsibility for air defence based on altitude and defensive weapon ranges.

Source: Hindu
